

VZCZCXRO3282  
PP RUEHAG RUEHROV  
DE RUEHMD #0640 1581537  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 061537Z JUN 08  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4913  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0349  
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 3455  
RUEHBS/DEA BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHNA/DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCNFB/FBI WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEILB/NCTC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000640

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR L/LEI BELLINGER, S/CT DAILEY AND EUR/WE  
NSC FOR JUAN ZARATE  
DEA FOR PAUL CRAINE, MICHAEL BRAUN AND THOMAS HARRIGAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2018

TAGS: [CJAN](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN/AL-KASSAR: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVES U.S  
REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION

REF: A. MADRID 611

[1B](#). MADRID 312

[1C](#). MADRID 007

Classified By: Ambassador Eduardo Aguirre, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (C) Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba phoned the Ambassador on June 6 to say that the Council of Ministers had just approved the extradition to the U.S. of notorious Syrian arms trafficker Monzer Al-Kassar. Further to REFTELS, today's action by the Council was the final political decision we had been awaiting since Al-Kassar was taken into Spanish custody almost one year ago today (June 7, 2007), and is a tribute to the work of several members of the Mission Country Team and Washington interagency.

[¶2.](#) (C) We will remain in close contact with Spanish authorities to ensure that the transfer is made as quickly and as securely as possible. Our understanding is that the Council of Ministers will now issue a formal order to the National Court (Audiencia Nacional) to authorize the transfer of Al-Kassar. This will likely happen on Monday or Tuesday June 9-10. Madrid DEA Country Attaché spoke today with Interpol representatives in Spain, who set Thursday June 12 as the target date for Al-Kassar to be handed over to the U.S. Today's Council of Ministers decision is a great victory and the definitive step towards ensuring that this alleged terrorist faces justice in the U.S.  
Aguirre